

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2329

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: PFOR, YO CH

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV ASSEMBLY VISIT TO PEKING

REF: HONG KONG 2944

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO NCNA REPORTS, A YUGOSLAV FEDERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION CURRENTLY IN CHINA IS RECEIVING HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION INCLUDING A MEETING WITH POLITBURO MEMBER AND CHAIRMAN OF NPC STANDING COMMITTEE CHU TEH. THIS IS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE TOTAL ABSENCE OF NCNA COVERAGE OF THE PEKING STOPOVER BY LCY EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEMBER GLIGOROV LAST MARCH (REFTEL). THE CHINESE MAY BE SEEKING CLOSER TIES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND ARE ALSO SIGNALLING THEIR APPROVAL FOR TITO'S CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOVIET-INSPIRED SUBVERSION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE YUGOSLAV FEDERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION HEADED BY
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ASSEMBLY VICE PRESIDENT PEKO DAPCEVIC IS RECEIVING CON-

SIDERABLE ATTENTION IN THE PRC MEDIA. ON SEPTEMBER 23 THE DELEGATION MET WITH POLITBURO MEMBER (AND CHAIRMAN OF NPC STANDING COMMITTEE) CHU TEH AND WAS LATER "WARMLY WELCOMED" AT A BANQUET HOSTED BY THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE. ATTENDEES BESIDES NPC LEADERS INCLUDED THE LIGHT INDUSTRY MINISTER AND A VICE FOREIGN MINISTER. IN THE BANQUET SPEECH, NPC VICE CHAIRMAN HSU HSIANG-CHIEN PAID TRIBUTE TO YUGOSLAVIA'S ESPOUSAL OF NON-ALIGNMENT, OPPOSITION TO IMPERIALISM AND HEGEMONISM, AND OPPOSITION TO FOREIGN CONTROL, SUBVERSION, INTERFERENCE AND THREAT. IN RESPONSE, DAPCEVIC ALSO PAID TRIBUTE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND YUGOSLAVIA'S OPPOSITION TO "DIVIDING THE WORLD INTO BLOCS". DAPCEVIC ALSO POINTED OUT THE "IDENTITY OF NEEDS AND INTERESTS" THAT HAD BEEN AFFIRMED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND HIS CONVICTION THAT "GREATER AND FASTER ADVANCES" WILL BE MADE IN SINO-YUGOSLAV BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. WARMTH OF THE WELCOME, THE HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION, AND NCNA COVERAGE ALL ARE IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE MARCH 1974 STOPOVER IN CHINA BY YUGOSLAV POLITBURO MEMBER GLIGOROV WHEN NCNA FAILED TO MENTION HIS PRESENCE. BESIDES THE PRC'S CONTINUING ATTENTION TO ROMANIA, WE HAVE NOTED SOME RECENT INCREASED INTEREST BY THE CHINESE TO OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS, NOTABLY UPGRADING OF THEIR ATTENDANCE AT BULGARIAN NATIONAL DAY IN PEKING TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL (HONG KONG 10351). THE YUGOSLAV DELEGATION MAY BE RECEIVING SOMEWHAT SIMILAR INCREASED ATTENTION AS PART OF AND OVER-ALL CHINESE INTEREST IN CLOSER TIES.

3. BANQUET REMARKS BY NPC VICE CHAIRMAN APPEARED TO BE DIRECTED AT THE SOVIETS AND MORE PARTICULARLY AT TITO'S RECENT CRACKDOWN ON PRO-SOVIET SUBVERSIVES WITHIN YUGOSLAVIA. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, THE COMMUNIST HONG KONG NEWSPAPER TA KUNG PAO HAS CARRIED A SERIES OF FOREIGN NEWS STORIES ON SOVIET SUBVERSION IN YUGOSLAVIA. WE HAVE NOT YET NOTED SIMILAR ARTICLES COMING OUT OF CHINA.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY BELGRADE'S COMMENTS ON YUGOSLAVIAN PRESS PLAY OF DELEGATION'S VISIT TO PEKING.
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